

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a neurodegenerative illness of the central nervous system in a patient comprising culturing neuronal cells *in vitro* with an effective amount of at least one immunosuppressive compound having an affinity for immunophilins; and transplanting said cultured neuronal cells into said patient,

said effective amount for said cell culturing being that amount which will promote growth, survival and integration of said neuronal cells.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of at least one immunosuppressive compound having an affinity for immunophilins during transplantation of said neuronal cells,

said effective amount for said patient being that amount which will promote growth, survival and integration of said neuronal cells.

3. **(Withdrawn).**

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said neuronal cells are second trimester human fetal neuronal cells.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said compound having an affinity for immunophilins is selected from the group consisting of FK506, rapamycin, cyclosporin A, FK-520, FK-523, 15-O-DeMe-FK-520, (4R)-[(E)-L-butenyl]-4,N-dimethyl-L-threonine, GPI-1046, ~~V-10,367~~ and biological equivalents thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of FK506, rapamycin, cyclosporin A, FK-520, FK-523, 15-O-DeMe-FK-520, (4R)-[(E)-L-butenyl]-4,N-dimethyl-L-threonine, ~~GPI-1046, V-10,367~~ and biological equivalents thereof.

7 - 13 (Withdrawn)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a neurodegenerative illness of the central nervous system in a patient comprising transplanting neuronal cells, which have been cultured with an effective amount of at least one immunosuppressive compounds having an affinity for immunophilins, into said patient, said effective amount for said cell culturing being that amount which will promote growth, survival and integration of said neuronal cells.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14, further comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of at least one

immunosuppressive compound having an affinity for immunophilins during transplantation of said neuronal cells,

said effective amount for said patient being that amount which will promote growth, survival and integration of said neuronal cells.

16. (Withdrawn).

17. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein said neuronal cells are second trimester human fetal neuronal cells.

18 – 28 (Withdrawn)

29. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said compound having an affinity for immunophilins is FK506.

30. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said compound having an affinity for immunophilins is rapamycin.

31. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said compound having an affinity for immunophilins is cyclosporin A.

32. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said neurodegenerative illness is Parkinson's disease.

33. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said neurodegenerative illness is Huntington's disease.

34. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said neurodegenerative illness is stroke.

35. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said neurodegenerative illness is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

36. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said neurodegenerative illness is Alzheimer's disease.